



Press Release

May 26, 2005

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Daimler Chrysler Presents California with Keys to the Future *Three Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles Provided to State*

Sacramento - Daimler Chrysler today handed the keys to three advanced technology hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles to the state's Air Resources Board, the Department of General Services, and Energy Commission.

"Daimler Chrysler today literally delivered the keys to California's future," said Dr. Alan C. Lloyd, Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency. "We are on the verge of an exciting transformation in California to a hydrogen economy."

The vehicles donated today are F-cells, and are part of a fuel cell vehicle fleet that Daimler Chrysler has in service around the world. In this unique automobile, the entire fuel cell system is located in the vehicle's floor, leaving full use of the passenger and cargo spaces.

It has a range of approximately 100 miles and a top speed of 85 mph. The electric motor develops 85 hp (65 kW), allowing the driver to accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 16 seconds.

"These cars demonstrate how accessible the future really is, and have provided us with an opportunity to reach out to the public," said Fred Aguiar, State and Consumer Services Secretary. "The benefits of using hydrogen are critical if we are to successfully make the transition away from petroleum-based fuels. Using a clean, renewable resource such as hydrogen brings us closer to our preservation goals."

A key reason for the state's investment in this effort is the fact that hydrogen-powered vehicles have no smog-forming or greenhouse gas emissions. As the state with the nation's poorest air quality, California, in particular, stands to benefit enormously from its use.

Fuel cells release energy from the reaction of hydrogen and oxygen with a catalyst. This clean technology operates at a high level of efficiency and is true "zero emission." Hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles emit only pure water vapor as exhaust.

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"We have committed significant time, energy and resources to creating an infrastructure that will support hydrogen-powered vehicles, promote their use, and lead us into the future", said Energy Commission Chairman, Joe Desmond. "Hydrogen is not only clean, it also promotes energy diversity."

Through the DOE Controlled Hydrogen Fleet and Infrastructure Demonstration and Validation Project, DaimlerChrysler will place fuel cell vehicles in the hands of customers who will provide valuable feedback about performance in different conditions. DaimlerChrysler is testing over 100 fuel cell vehicles under varying weather, traffic conditions and driving styles in different locations worldwide. This experience will benefit the development of the fuel cell automobile and how it will be refueled.

The State will utilize the vehicles in different capacities in an effort to provide data to Daimler Chrysler. These uses could include events, ride & drives and high mileage accumulation uses, such as in the agency mail rooms.

For more information on hydrogen and California's commitment to a clean future, visit:
<http://hydrogenhighway.ca.gov>